

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RCE/2800
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Inventor(s): Sturgeon et al.

Confirmation No.: 5394

Application No.: 09/919701

Examiner: Nghiem, Michael

Filing Date: 7/31/2001

Group Art Unit: 2863

Title: PIVOTING ON-AXIS INK RESERVOIR FOR INKJET PRINTER

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) 37 CFR 1.114

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.114 is effective on May 20, 2000. If the above- application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under CFR 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

Submission under 37 CFR 1.114

() Previously submitted:

() Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

() Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.

() Other _____.

(X) Enclosed:

(X) Amendment/Reply (8 Pages)

() Affidavit(s)/Declarations(s)

() Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

() Other _____.

Miscellaneous

() Suspension of action is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months.

The fee for this Suspension is (37 CFR 1.17(ii)) \$130.00

() Other _____.

(X) RCE filing fee \$770.00

- () A Petition for Extension of Time
- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| () one month | \$110.00 |
| () two months | \$420.00 |
| () three months | \$950.00 |
| () four months | \$1480.00 |

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$770.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account **08-2025** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account **08-2025** under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees.

(X) A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

(X) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Date of Deposit: 2/17/2004

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() I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number _____ on _____

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Respectfully submitted,

Sturgeon et al.

By 

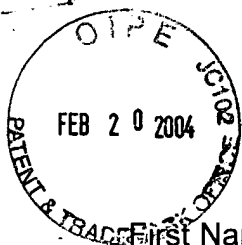
John B. Dawson

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Reg. No. **39,504**

Date: **2/17/2004**

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PATENT
Atty Docket No. 10014835-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Sturgeon et al.

Application Number: 09/919,701

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Title: Pivoting On-Axis Reservoir For Inkjet
Printer


Date of Amendment: November 7, 2003

Examiner: Nghiem, Michael P.

Art Unit: 2863

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER AND THE
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John R. Dawson (Registration No. 39,504)
Attorney of Record

AMENDMENT FILED WITH RCE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants hereby submit the following amendment with a Request For
Continued Examination.

In the claims:

The claims currently in the application are set forth below. Claims 1-16 and 21-25 have been previously cancelled. New claims 26-46 have been added herein. A complete set of claims, as currently amended, is provided below.

Claims 1-16 (previously canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead, the inkjet printer having an on-axis ink reservoir pivotally secured to the carriage defining a secured position of the ink reservoir with respect to the ink reservoir mounting-portion and defining an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with the printhead, said method including the steps of:

locating the carriage containing the first printhead;

pivoting the ink reservoir out of its engaged position such that the first printhead is exposed and easily accessible in the carriage while maintaining said ink reservoir in said secured position, and thereby automatically disconnecting the fluid communication between the ink reservoir and the first printhead and providing access to said first printhead without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position;

removing the first printhead from the carriage while maintaining the ink reservoir in said secured position;

installing the second printhead in the carriage such that the second printhead is operably secured to the carriage while maintaining the ink reservoir in said secured position; and,

returning the ink reservoir to its engaged position thereby automatically placing the ink reservoir and second printhead in fluid communication with each other without removing said ink reservoir from said carriage.

18. (original) The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, wherein said locating the first printhead step includes positioning the carriage in the printer such that it is easily accessible through an access door on the printer.

19. (original) The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, wherein said first and second printheads are detachably secured to said carriage.

20. (original) The method for replacing a first printhead operably secured to a carriage of an inkjet printer with a second printhead of claim 17, further including the steps of:

unlatching a latching mechanism extending between structures containing the ink reservoir and first printhead to initiate said step of pivoting the ink reservoir out of its engaged position; and

latching the latching mechanism following said step of returning the ink reservoir to its engaged position.

Claims 21-25 (previously canceled).

26. (new) A carriage for an inkjet printer comprising:

a printhead mounting portion;

a printhead operably secured to said mounting portion;

an ink reservoir mounting portion pivotally secured to said printhead mounting portion;

an ink reservoir operably secured to said ink reservoir mounting portion to define a secured position in which said ink reservoir is secured to said ink reservoir mounting portion;

said ink reservoir having an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with said printhead when said ink reservoir is in said secured position, and an open position, in which the ink reservoir mounting portion is pivoted away from said printhead mounting portion such that said printhead may be accessed from above said printhead mounting portion without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position on said ink reservoir mounting portion.

27. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 26, further including:
a plurality of ink reservoirs; and
a plurality of printheads;
wherein one of each plurality of ink reservoirs is in fluid communication with a
respective one of each plurality of printheads in said engaged position.

28. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 26, further including a
channel extending between said ink reservoir and said printhead in said engaged
position.

29. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 28, wherein said
channel is substantially air tight when said carriage is in said engaged position such
that a vacuum formed in the channel will cause ink to flow, and said channel is not
substantially air tight when the carriage is moved out of its engaged position, thereby
preventing ink from flowing through the channel.

30. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 26, wherein said
printhead mounting portion is pivotally secured to said ink reservoir mounting portion
at a pivot point.

31. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 30, wherein said
printhead is detachably secured to said printhead mounting-portion.

32. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 31, wherein said ink
reservoir is detachably secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion.

33. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 30, further including:
a resistive detent on one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink
reservoir mounting-portion; and,
a tab extending from the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink
reservoir mounting-portion for operably engaging said resistive detent when said ink

reservoir is in said open position, thereby holding the ink reservoir in said open position to further facilitate removal of the printhead.

34. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 30, further including a shaft extending from one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion, said shaft having a mating end portion; and

a mating hole for receiving said shaft in the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion, said mating hole including a notch for operably receiving said mating end portion of said shaft only when said ink reservoir is in said engaged position.

35. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 30, further including a latching mechanism for detachably securing said printhead mounting portion to said ink reservoir mounting-portion thereby holding said ink reservoir in said engaged position.

36. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 35, wherein said latching mechanism includes:

a handle pivotally secured to one of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion at a pivot;

a joining arm extending from said handle; and

a hook for receiving said joining arm extending from the other of said printhead mounting-portion and said ink reservoir mounting-portion such that said hook operably engages said joining arm when said handle is pivoted about said pivot.

37. (new) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

a printhead operably secured to said carriage;

an ink reservoir operably secured to said carriage in a secured position such that said ink reservoir may pivot about said printhead at a pivot point while remaining in said secured position, said carriage having an engaged position in which the ink reservoir is in fluid communication with said printhead when said ink reservoir is in said secured position, and an open position, in which the ink reservoir is pivoted about said pivot point away from said printhead, such that said printhead may be accessed from above said carriage without removing said ink reservoir from said secured position.

38. (new) The inkjet printer of claim 37, further including a channel extending between said ink reservoir to said printhead when said carriage is in said engaged position.

39. (new) The inkjet printer of claim 38, wherein said channel is substantially air tight when said carriage is in said engaged position such that a vacuum formed in the channel will cause ink to flow, and said channel is not substantially air tight when the carriage is moved out of its engaged position, thereby preventing ink from flowing through the channel.

40. (new) The inkjet printer of claim 37, wherein said printhead is operably secured to said carriage at a printhead mounting-portion, and said ink reservoir is operably secured to said carriage at an ink reservoir mounting-portion; and wherein said printhead mounting-portion is pivotally secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion at said pivot point.

41. (new) The inkjet printer of claim 37, further including:
a second ink reservoir operably secured to said carriage; and,
a second printhead operably secured to said carriage,
wherein said first ink reservoir includes black ink, and said second ink reservoir includes a plurality of chambers for receiving a plurality of different colored

inks.

42. (new) A carriage for an inkjet printer comprising:
a first mounting portion;
a printhead operably secured to said first mounting portion;
a second mounting portion operably secured to said first mounting portion
such that said second mounting portion moves toward and away from said first
mounting portion along a defined path;
an ink reservoir operably secured to said second mounting portion in a
secured position,
said second mounting portion having an engaged position in which the ink
reservoir is in fluid communication with said printhead when said ink reservoir is in
said secured position, and an open position in which the second mounting portion is
moved away from the first mounting portion along the defined path and said ink
reservoir remains in said secured position thereby providing access to the printhead
without detaching said ink reservoir from said secured position on said second
mounting portion.

43. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 42, wherein said first
mounting portion is pivotally secured to said second mounting portion at a pivot
point.

44. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 42, wherein said first
mounting portion is a printhead mounting-portion and said second mounting portion
is an ink reservoir mounting-portion.

45. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 44, wherein said
printhead is detachably secured to said printhead mounting-portion.

46. (new) The carriage for an inkjet printer of claim 45, wherein said ink
reservoir is detachably secured to said ink reservoir mounting-portion.

REMARKS


A Notice of Allowance dated November 25, 2003 allows claims 17-20. Claims 1-16 and 21-25 have been previously cancelled. New claims 26-46 have been added herein. New claims 26-46 include limitations similar to those of the allowed claims, and therefore they too should be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that this case passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

February 17, 2003

By


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